

REFERENCE SLIP

6-21

REFERRED TO

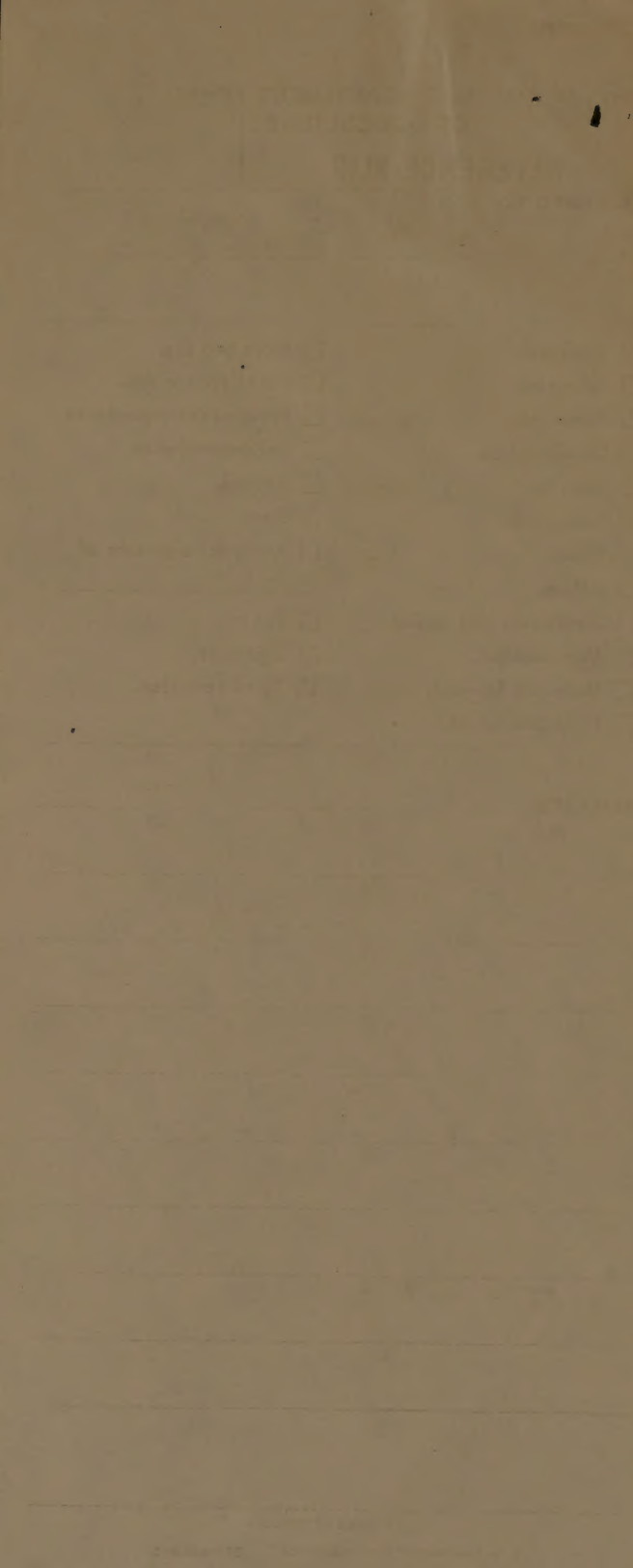
Dr. Lanke

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Approval. | ☐ Note and file. |
| ☐ Attention. | ☐ Per telephone call. |
| ☐ Comment. | ☐ Previous correspondence. |
| ☐ Consideration. | ☐ Recommendation. |
| ☐ Copying. | ☐ Record. |
| ☐ Correction. | ☐ Rush. |
| ☐ Filing. | ☐ Reply for signature of |
| ☐ Initials. | ----- |
| ☐ Investigate and advise. | ☐ See me. |
| ☐ Memorandum. | ☐ Signature. |
| ☐ Note and forward. | ☐ To be rewritten. |
| ☐ Note and return. | |

REMARKS:

This report should be attached to Mr. Hoyt's letter of June 14 to Dr. Asberg - a copy was sent to you.

(Initials of sender)



JUN 17 1949

JUN 14 1949

Dr. Herman C. Aaberg, Director
Livestock Department
American Farm Bureau Federation
109 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago 2, Illinois

Dear Dr. Aaberg:

Reference is made to your letter of May 16 to Dr. H. F. Knippling of this Bureau regarding control and eradication of screw worms in the Southeast.

Mr. W. G. Bruce of our Savannah, Georgia, laboratory with whom you have discussed this problem, has given considerable thought to the possibilities of eradicating the screw worm in the Southeast. He has prepared a preliminary report on the subject entitled, "Suggested Screw Worm Eradication Program in the Southeast." This is enclosed for your information. The various agencies of the Department who would be concerned with this problem have not considered a detailed program. However, the suggestions offered by Mr. Bruce should serve as a basis of consideration and discussion by the various states and livestock growers.

An undertaking such as the one in question would, as you realize, require the joint efforts and close cooperation of various state and federal agencies, livestock farmers associations, as well as the individual livestock grower. Representatives of these groups should participate in drawing up an overall program in the event a definite plan is to be drawn up in the future. However, we hope the preliminary report prepared by Mr. Bruce will serve your purpose for the present.

Very truly yours,

Every S Hoyt

Acting Chief of Bureau

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Simms-BAI
Mr. Bruce
Dr. Bishopp
/ Dr. Laake

450

JUN 1 1943

JUN 1 1943

Mr. Herman C. Ashery, Director
Livestock Department
American Farm Bureau Federation
103 North Dearborn Avenue
Chicago 2, Illinois

Dear Mr. Ashery:

Reference is made to your letter of May 18 to Mr. E. P. Knapling
of this Bureau regarding control and eradication of nerve worms
in the Southwest.

Mr. W. G. Brown of our Bureau, Memphis, laboratory with whom
you have discussed this problem, has given considerable thought
to the possibilities of eradicating the nerve worm in the South-
west. He has prepared a preliminary report on the subject entitled,
"Suggested Nerve Worm Eradication Program in the Southwest." This
is enclosed for your information. The various agencies of the
Department who would be concerned with this problem have not con-
sidered a detailed program. However, the suggestions offered by
Mr. Brown should serve as a basis of consideration and discussion
by the various states and livestock growers.

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definite plan is to be drawn up in the future. However, we hope
the preliminary report prepared by Mr. Brown will serve your purpose
for the present.

Very truly yours,

Wm. L. Hayes
Acting Chief of Bureau

Enclosure
cc: Mr. E. P. Knapling
Mr. Brown
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Leake

450

JUN 24 1949

Suggested Screwworm Eradication Program in the Southeastern States

The object of a screwworm eradication program is the complete eradication of the screwworm Calitroga americana C. & P., from the southeastern states, more specifically the southern states east of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

The screwworm is the most important insect pest attacking livestock in the southeastern states, particularly in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. No other insect affecting wild or domestic animals is as devastating in its attack nor as deadly in effect. Uncontrolled, this pest is capable of wiping out entire herds of cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats. When proper control measures are employed all losses can be averted and screwworm injuries reduced to a minimum. The control of screwworms often determines the success or failure of a livestock enterprise.

Screwworms have been known in Texas since about 1842. Occasionally, during the summer months, they have spread to adjoining states but not until 1933 did they become established outside of Texas.

Prior to 1933, screwworms were unknown in the southeast but during the summer of that year the first cases were reported from southern Georgia and northern Florida and spread to a number of counties in these areas. Screwworm activity subsided during the winter months but with the coming of warm weather in the spring of 1934, screwworms were reported from about 55 of the 67 counties in Florida. Heavy losses of livestock from screwworm attack were reported by hundreds of stockmen. During 1935 screwworms were reported from every county in Florida.

JUN 24 1942

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A screwworm educational and control program was initiated in May 1935 by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in cooperation with State agencies, in all the southern states. The object of this program was to disseminate information on screwworm control by means of personal contacts, mass meetings, newspaper items, and radio talks, and giving demonstrations in the proper methods and materials for the treatment of screwworm infestations. This program was discontinued in 1937 at which time it was believed that the program had served its purpose in educating stockmen and screwworm cases had been reduced to a very small number, all of which were in Florida.

Since 1937 screwworm infestations have gradually increased in numbers and have become widespread in the southeastern states, with occasional severe outbreaks.

A screwworm survey of the southeastern states was initiated by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in June 1943. The purpose of this survey was (1) to determine the extent and relative abundance of screwworm infestations, (2) to ascertain the amounts of critical insecticides needed for screwworm control, (3) to aid in the proper distribution of these insecticides, and (4) to advise farmers and stockmen of the approved methods and materials for the treatment and prevention of screwworm infestations.

Two screwworm scouts have spent their entire time on this survey and have aided in greatly curtailing losses from screwworm attack.

The screwworm is a true parasite and lives only in the living flesh of warm blooded animals. It is not found in turtles, snakes, lizards, or other cold blooded animals nor in carcasses, dead fish, decaying meats, or decaying vegetable matter. Any warm blooded animal

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is subject to screwworm attack. Infestations have been found in practically all kinds of wild and domestic animals, poultry and man.

While screwworm infestations are wide-spread in the southeastern states during the summer months they cannot survive the cold weather of the winter months in most of this area. Winter activity of screwworms is normally confined to the State of Florida, but occasionally it has survived in southern Georgia. Surveys during the past several winters indicated the usual northern limit of the overwintering area to be in north peninsular Florida, approximately through Taylor, Suwannee, Columbia, Baker, and Duval counties. Mild winters would permit overwintering north of this area while severe winters would inhibit survival in north Florida.

Since screwworm attack is confined to warm blooded animals, since the activity of this pest is confined chiefly to the State of Florida, and since effective screwworm control was obtained during the rather small scale educational and control program in 1935-1937, it is reasonable to assume that screwworm eradication will be dependent upon Federal and State legislation and sufficient appropriations, the cooperation of all State agencies in the infested areas, and the proper execution of an eradication program.

Eradication of screwworms in the southeast means the treatment of every wound, whether infested or not, in all domestic animals in the infested areas and the destruction of wild animals found to be infested. Practically all this work will be confined to the State of Florida.

Semi-wild hogs that roam the unfenced woodlands in Florida present the most important problem in screwworm control. Infestations in the navels of new-born pigs, in the vaginas of dams, on the teats of sows

(due to the sharp milk teeth of suckling pigs), in wounds caused by dog bites or by fighting among themselves, are responsible for maintaining a large population of screwworms in Florida. It is suggested that all stockmen claiming ownership of these hogs be instructed to round up their hogs and put them under fence where they can be conveniently inspected and treated for screwworms. After a reasonable time has been granted for rounding up the hogs, which would be from 6 to 12 months, all hogs found in the woods should be trapped or destroyed.

The second most important problem confronting a screwworm eradication program involves the untended herds of cattle that roam the range in various parts of Florida. Owners of such cattle should provide sufficient cowboys to keep these animals under constant observation and to treat all screwworm infestations. Some areas, such as densely wooded hammocks, should not be used for grazing cattle during the eradication program in those areas. Pens and chutes should be provided in sufficient numbers and in such locations as to be available to all cattle, so the cattle can be inspected and treated for infestations. Hospital pastures should be provided, adjacent to the pens and chutes, for confining infested animals until the wounds are healed.

The predisposing causes of screwworm attack may be listed in order of importance as follows: (1) birth of young (in navels of new-born animals and vaginas of dams), (2) snags and scratches (due to sharp horns of cattle, fighting, and rough handling), (3) tick bites (the bites of the Gulf Coast tick is responsible for over 70% of the cases from about August 1 to October 15), (4) surgical operations (castration, dehorning, marking, and branding), (5) hog bites and dog bites (both affecting hogs). Other predisposing causes by fly bites, warts, other sores.

Controlled breeding, so that calves are dropped during the winter months when screwworms are least active, and careful inspection of all

new-born animals and their dams, will eliminate the most important predisposing cause of screwworm attack.

All cattle in the State of Florida, other than pure-bred or dairy cattle, should be dehorned or have the horns tipped.

Effective screwworm eradication should include the control of the Gulf Coast tick which is responsible for most infestations in Florida during August, September, and part of October. This means the application of approved insecticides to all cattle in the tick infested areas.

All wounds caused by surgical operations, such as ~~castration~~, ear marking, branding, etc., should be treated with Smear 62 or other approved insecticide and the animals kept under close surveillance until the wounds are healed. All animals with large, open wounds should be kept in a hospital pasture until the wounds are healed. The use of bloodless emasculators is recommended for castrating cattle, sheep, and goats. They cannot be successfully used for ~~castrating~~ hogs.

It shall be the duty of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to deploy sufficient personnel throughout the screwworm infested areas in the southeastern states to assist the stockmen in the eradication of screwworms. They will work in close cooperation with the farmers and stockmen and all agencies interested in livestock including the State Extension Services, veterinarians, etc. They will aid in the inspection of livestock and the treatment of screwworm infestations and give demonstrations in the proper methods and materials for screwworm control. They will give wide publicity to the screwworm eradication program by personal contacts, group meetings, radio broadcasts, and newspaper articles. Stockmen should be required to keep a supply of Smear 62 on hand in sufficient quantity to treat all wounds, whether infested or not in their livestock, such materials to be furnished gratis by the Bureau of Entomology and

Plant Quarantine. Materials used by the employees of the Bureau will be furnished by that Bureau.

Obviously, since screwworm seldom overwinter north of peninsular Florida, practically all the work will be done in that state. It is proposed that the initial eradication work be concentrated in an area approximately 50 miles wide across peninsular Florida, extending southward from the northern limits of the overwintering area. This is to prevent the northern migration of screwworms into western Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, as well as to eradicate screwworms in that 50-mile belt. Other screwworm scouts will be deployed in Florida as the Division Leader shall direct. As screwworms are eradicated in the 50-mile belt, personnel in that area will move southward in such numbers and at such times as directed by the Division Leader.

It is proposed that the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine maintain small trap-pastures in certain designated areas in which animals with open wounds are kept under close observation to ascertain the presence of screwworm in that area.

It is proposed that the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine maintain a small research laboratory, under the direction of the Division Leader.

The total cost of this eradication program and the number of years that it will take to complete are impossible to accurately forecast. It is roughly estimated, however, that it will cost approximately ten million dollars and take about seven years.

The expenditure of a large sum of money for a screwworm eradication program must be justified by ascertaining the losses now attributable to screwworm attack. Careful surveys should be made, especially in Florida, Georgia and Alabama to determine these losses. These surveys can probably be made by the Extension Services work in cooperation with livestock agencies.

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be made by the Extension Service work in cooperation with livestock agencies.

Items to be considered in estimating the annual losses attributable to screwworm attack should include the following:

Death Losses:

Actual Value of Animals

Cattle

Hogs

Sheep and Goats

Horses and Mules

Others (dogs, chickens, turkeys, etc.)

Maintenance Costs:

Cost of treating animals, including inspection of livestock for detection of infestations. Cost of insecticides.

Feeding and care of infested animals, maintenance of hospital pastures.

Retarded Growth:

Due to infestations

Lessened Vitality:

Susceptibility to disease

Cost of Preventive Measures:

Control of ear ticks, treatment and care of surgical operations (castration, ear marks, brands, dehorning,, shear-cuts, etc.)

Transmission of Diseases:

Such as swollen joints in calves and colts.

Malformations:

Loss of ear, eye, etc.

Damaged Hides

Reduced value.

The first consideration in a screwworm eradication program is the cooperation and coordinated effort of all interested agencies. These would include the Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Dairy Industry, State Extension Services, State Experiment Stations, State Veterinarians, and Livestock Associations. Only when these agencies are in agreement as to the results to be expected and the methods of procedure can a satisfactory program be properly formulated.

In addition to this cooperation it will be necessary to have adequate quarantine, and an extensive educational program to augment the direct attack upon the screwworm.

Appropriate Federal and State legislation should be enacted to authorize and provide funds for a screwworm eradication program. Obviously the states should take the initiative in starting such a program, particularly Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. Suggested legislation follows:

Florida:

Compulsory treatment of all screwworm cases with Smear 62 or such other insecticides as the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine may recommend, and report cases.

Elimination of hogs on the open range.

Control of cattle on the open range.

Provide for such steps as may become necessary to eradicate screwworms in wildlife.

Inspection of all livestock entering or leaving Florida or into areas freed of screwworms.

Erection of pens and chutes by cattle owners as may be required.

Provide for the safeguarding of carriers such as trucks, trailers, railroad cars, and boats transporting livestock.

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- Elimination of hogs on the open range.
- Control of cattle on the open range.
- Provide for such steps as may become necessary to eradicate screwworms in wildlife.
- Inspection of all livestock entering or leaving Florida or into areas free of screwworms.
- Erection of pens and chutes by cattle owners as may be required.
- Provide for the safeguarding of carriers such as trucks, trailers, railroad cars, and boats transporting livestock.

Cooperation:

Authority for employees of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to inspect, ride herd, and treat any livestock infested with screwworms.

Appropriate funds to assist in the eradication of screwworms.

Provide one or more livestock specialists or veterinary entomologists to cooperate with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Georgia:

Compulsory treatment of all screwworm cases with Smear 62, especially in the hog-peanut section in southeast Georgia and cattle along the coastal area, and report cases.

Inspection of all livestock entering the possible overwintering areas.

Cooperation:

To appropriate funds to assist in eradicating screwworms.

Provide one or more livestock specialist or veterinary entomologists as cooperators.

Alabama:

Compulsory treatment of all screwworm infestations with Smear 62 and report cases.

Inspection of all livestock entering the possible overwintering areas.

Cooperation:

Appropriate funds to assist in the eradication of screwworms.

Provide one or more livestock specialists or veterinary entomologists as cooperators.

SUGGESTED FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Appropriate legislation authorizing screwworm eradication program in the Southeastern States and provision of funds for same.

Establish a permanent quarantine along the Mississippi River, and provide for such other quarantines as may be deemed necessary, and to prohibit the entrance of livestock infested with screwworms into the Southeastern States.

To require such treatments as may be necessary to prevent the movement of screwworms into the eradication area, of all trucks, trailers, railroad cars, or other conveyances used in the interstate shipment of livestock.

